

# THE POLYNESIAN.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1862

Three months ago the Hawaiian Legislature passed an Act "to provide for the separation of the sexes in the Government schools." Section 1 of said Act made it the "duty of the Superintendents" in "consultation with the school trustees," and "under instructions from the Board of Education, to establish separate schools for the children of each sex in their respective districts whenever practicable." &c.; and the 2nd section ordered that Act to take effect "from and after the date of its passage." The Act was approved by the King on the 25th of July last.

Having never heard a word of the subject from that day to this, and having accepted the measure with that constrained and qualified gratification with which a beggar accepts a half loaf rather than no bread, we now, after a reasonable delay, respectfully ask the reasons why the Act has not yet been put into operation? Have unforeseen obstacles arisen to prevent the Board of Education from issuing those "instructions" under which the school superintendents are to act; or does the Board consider the measure as *a priori* so impracticable, as not to merit the time and exertion required even to attempt its execution? Why should a measure so intimately connected with the very rudiments of the moral training of the young in this country—a measure which the enemies of educational reform, themselves, had not the courage nor the face to oppose,—be shelved by the Board? Why should activity, under the altered circumstances of the country, pervade every other Department of the Government, and yet the Board of Education show no signs of awakening? Is it just to the people to delay a measure whose necessity has been so clearly demonstrated? It is the first step in the series of educational reforms which we hope and pray for, and like all first steps, it may be the only one that costs. We fear it will meet with but a lukewarm support from all those who look upon the present Hawaiian system as an inflexible recipe in educational matters, but the sooner the Board braces itself up for the occasion, the better for its own credit, the better for the people. The old educational regime must be broken with sooner or later, and the execution of this Act is an opportunity to commence with as any that could be devised. The faithful, conscientious execution of this Act may require the special, personal visit and inspection of the various school districts by some member of the Board, or a deputy, but such a tour by proper persons could only be productive of beneficial results.

In addressing ourselves in this matter to the Government, we impute none of its motives, and apprehend no misconstruction of our own.

We conceive that the current of events and the force of circumstances may oblige the Government to convene an extra session of the Legislature for the purpose of providing funds, and to legalize measures necessary to carry into effect the propositions of the 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 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